



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

The moment the acid sulfurosum is added a thick precipitate arises, and at this moment the reducing fluid is strongest.

The method of handling the section is the same as in method 1.

The tin solution is made by adding so much chloride of tin to three per cent. tincture of iodine until the color is white or yellowish. The iron solution is a saturated solution of ferrum phosphoricum in distilled water.

The method is somewhat cumbersome, but the results are said to be extraordinary.

**Method of Preparing Rotifers.**<sup>6</sup>—The first difficulty which one experiences in studying the rotifers is their constant motion. This difficulty is overcome, according to Masius, by the use of a mixture of methyl alcohol, water, and cocaine in weak solution.

After being anæsthetized by this fluid, the rotifers may be fixed without contraction in the ordinary preservative fluids,—Flemming's fluid, for example.

For the study of the head, an anæsthetized specimen is placed upon a slide, and the head cut off in a transverse plane as near as possible to the anterior end. The section thus obtained can be examined easily from any side in water or weak alcohol.

---

## PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

**Natural Science Association of Staten Island.**—April 11th.—Mr. Arthur Hollick stated that a nest of the barred owl (*Syrnium nebulosum*) was found on Staten Island, March 27th, by Mr. Chas. Rufus Harte, a student of Columbia College. This is an addition to the list of birds known to breed here, and the following memorandum from Mr. Harte was read:

“In the woods which are the continuation of the swamp (near Bull's Head) I came upon a sweet gum, having an ‘owlish’ looking cavity. As I turned aside to investigate, a barred owl flew out and away into the depths of the woods, appearing again once or twice, but always at a very respectable distance. The tree was about two feet in diameter, with no limbs below the opening, which was some thirty feet up, and very irregular in form. The cavity into which it opened was about eight inches in diameter, and was filled to within six inches of the mouth with dead leaves and feathers. On this bed lay the three

<sup>6</sup> *Arch. de Biol.*, X., 4, 1890, p. 652.

eggs, which were nearly hatched and very dirty. I did not see any remains of birds or mammals either in or about the nest."

May 9th.—A communication was read from Mitchell's Book Co., 830 Broadway, N. Y., stating that they had the original deed of sale of Staten Island by the Indians, in 1670, and inquiring if the association desired to purchase or copy it. The corresponding secretary stated that he had requested Mr. E. C. Delavan, Jr., to examine the document, with the following result:

56 Wall Street, New York, May 9th, 1891.

ARTHUR HOLLICK, Esq., New Brighton, N. Y.:

DEAR SIR:—I have examined the conveyance in possession of the Mitchell Company, 830 Broadway, referred to in their letter to you. While the document presents many internal evidences of authenticity, two points strike the professional reader as odd. In the recital of parties the names of the grantees are first written, followed by the names of the grantors. The grantees are Governor Lovelace and James Duke of York, the former representing the latter. The grantors are various sachems.

The second point that seems to me unusual is that no totems have been drawn by any of the sachem grantors, and in their place are the ordinary marks that would likely be adopted by any illiterate.

Granting the authenticity of the document, what is its value? The price placed on it by the company is \$600. Its highest interest attaches when it is viewed from a purely antiquarian standpoint. Historically its interest is secondary. The first grant of Staten Island to Michael Pauw (1629–1630) was conditional on his acquiring the Indian titles, which we must assume that he accomplished. Pauw subsequently reconveyed to the West India Company (see Gay's History). After the English ousted the Dutch authorities a conveyance by the Indians of Staten Island to Governor Lovelace, before 1760, is said to have been made, followed by a deed of confirmation in 1760 (see Clute). The latter is probably the same instrument now under consideration.

From the lawyer's standpoint Indian deeds are now of little or no practical importance. It has been held that the Indians had no title which would be recognized in the courts of this country. The only legally recognized title was that of discovery and conquest. (Trustees of the Freeholders and Commonalty of the Town of Southampton, respondents, *vs.* The Mecox Bay Oyster Company, 116 N. Y. Johnson *vs.* McIntosh & Wheat (U. S.), 543. Martin *vs.* Waddell, 16 Peters 367.)

Very truly yours,

EDWARD C. DELAVAN, JR.

Mr. Arthur Hollick read by title a list of 35 fungi collected at Tottenville, October 4th, 1890, and determined by Chas H. Peck, State Botanist. This will be published as a "special" at some future date.

Mr. Hollick presented a specimen of *Spirophyton caudagalli*, found on the shore of Tottenville,—an addition to the local list of paleozoic fossils found in the Drift.

Mr. L. P. Gratacap showed specimens of *Lymnæa palustris*, and read the following memorandum: The *Lymnæa palustris*, which was found last autumn by Mr. Davis in the brook that courses along Washington Avenue, and which was identified by Mr. Sanderson Smith, has been kept in confinement by me during the winter. The tank in which the individuals were placed was kept in a very cold room and partook of of the changes in the winter weather. Two only survived the experience, and these have not hibernated, but maintained a sluggish life all winter. This spring seven gelatinous capsules exuded, each containing about twenty-five embryos. Amongst the authorities the opinion seems entertained that adults do not generally live over the winter, and that maturity is reached in one year. This opinion seems very questionable. The species may repay some attention. On this continent it ranges as far north as Great Bear Lake in Canada, and in the United States extends from New England through Pennsylvania and Kansas to California and Oregon. Abroad it ranges from Siberia to Algeria and Sicily. About five varieties are recorded by writers. The black patches of *Lymnæa* upon the cement blocks just under the overflow from the new pond recently made in the Snug Harbor clearings, south of Castleton Avenue, may also prove to be this species.

Mr. W. T. Davis noted the Carolina wren, as an addition to the list of birds known to breed on the island, and read the following note:

On the 26th of last April I discovered a family of Carolina wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) on Richmond Hill near the old British fort. One of the parent birds was perched on top of a small *Ailanthus* tree calling vociferously, while the other accompanied the young, which were hidden in a thick growth of low briars, grass, etc., in and out of which they crept. They were just able to fly,—indeed, one of them could only do so for a yard or two, and much preferred climbing about the briars. Later in the day the little birds had congregated under a small cedar, whose lower branches touched the ground, but they quickly sought the protection of the briars again when approached. It is hoped that they will not be molested, but continue to abide on Staten Island,

for the Carolina wren remains all the year round where once it has fixed its home.

Mr. Davis also contributed the following botanical notes:

A swamp of three or four acres lies just north of the Amboy road, between Gifford's and the road to Richmond. At present it supports a thick growth of huckleberry bushes, poison sumachs, young red maples, a number of magnolias, etc. Several bushes of the mountain holly (*Nemopanthes canadensis*) also grow there, which species has not before been reported from the island. In July, 1889, the deep red berries were conspicuous; in 1890 the bushes bore no fruit; but on the 26th of April, this year, they were found in blossom. (Specimens were here shown.)

The peat is particularly thick and quaking in this swamp, and fifteen or twenty years ago, before it had been drained so extensively, the pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*) grew in its northwest corner, as I was informed by a man who lived in the vicinity. The common cranberry also grew there, and the man who told me about the pitcher plant, said his mother used to pick them for family use, but in his time he had never gathered over a handful. Now they appear to be exterminated. There is, however, an unreported patch of cranberries (*Vaccinium macrocarpum*), or perhaps more properly several patches, in the low, open woods between Washington Avenue and the road from Annadale.